

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-40 are pending, in which claims 1, 9, 17, 25, and 33 are currently amended. No new matter is introduced.

The final Office Action mailed February 15, 2005 rejected claims 1, 7-9, 15-17, 23-25, 31-33, and 39-40 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Cox A1* (*Cox et al.*, US 2002/0115431 A1) in view of the newly-cited *Cox B1* (*Cox et al.*, US 6,456,709 B1), claims 2-4, 10-12, 18-20, 26-27, and 34-36 over *Cox A1* and *Cox B1* further in view of *Shah et al.* (US 6,212,506), claims 5-6, 13-14, 21-22, 29-30, and 37-38 over *Cox A1* and *Cox B1* further in view of *Weinman, Jr.* (US 6,658,455).

Examiner Smith and Supervisory Primary Examiner Weiss are thanked for the courtesy of an interview extended on June 6, 2005, in which the interpretation of claim 1, especially the term “selected.”

This rejection is respectfully traversed because neither *Cox A1* nor *Cox B1* teach or suggest the features of the claims. For example, independent claim 1 recites:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of charging for directory assistance services that are provided over a packet switched network, the method comprising:
 - transmitting information associated with a plurality of directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer;
 - in response to a selection of more than one of the directory listings from the client access device, transmitting a plurality of listing numbers to the client access device; and
 - preparing billing information based upon a number of the plurality of listing numbers transmitted to the client access device.

Thus, claim 1 provides that billing information is prepared “based upon a number of the plurality of listing numbers transmitted to the client access device” which were transmitted “in response to a selection of more than one of the directory listings from the client access device.” This feature is not shown in either *Cox A1* or *Cox B1*.

Rather, *Cox A1* is directed to a “telecommunication technique for providing information assistance services” (Title). Paragraphs 41-47 of the *Cox A1* application discuss three different ways it discloses in which a cellular-phone originated call to a directory assistance service is billed. First, the total “air time” in which the caller uses the cellular carrier’s cellular radio system to carry a call may be charged (§ 42). Second, a per-call charge to the directory assistance service may be levied, based on the “number of calls received from the carrier in a particular time period” (§ 43). Third, a toll charge may be imposed if the directory assistance operator originates a connection over a toll route (§ 44), either through use of toll tickets (§ 45) or the digits dialed at the director assistance’s PBX (§ 46). Paragraph 47 then states that responsibility for the billing is placed on the cellular carrier, not on the directory assistance service.

None of the three different ways of billing for directory assistance service disclosed in *Cox A1*, however, is “based upon a number of the plurality of listing numbers transmitted to the client access device,” as recited in claim 1. To the extent that imposing the toll charge on originating a connection over a toll route may be considered to be selecting a directory entry, *Cox A1* does not teach or suggest “in response to a selection of more than one of the directory listings from the client access device, transmitting a plurality of listing numbers to the client access device.”

Furthermore, it is not in the least surprising that *Cox A1* should fail to disclose the particular billing arrangement recited in claim 1, since the Office Action quite correctly recognized that “Cox(1) fails to teach transmitting information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information” (pp. 2-3).

None of the remaining secondary references—*Cox B1*, *Shaw et al.*, and *Weinman, Jr.*—teach or otherwise suggest this feature.

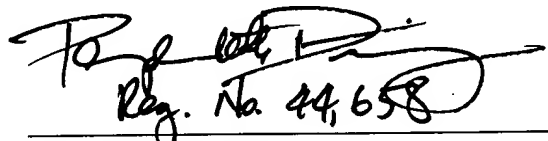
Independent claims 9, 17, 25, and 33 also recite the feature of preparing “billing information based upon a number of the plurality of listing numbers transmitted to the client access device,” and are allowable for at least the same reasons as that of independent claim 1.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at 703-425-8516 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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